

## GUY CHRISTIAN

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JUNE 19, 1951.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

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Mr. BYRNE of New York, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1961]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1961) for the relief of Guy Christian, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to pay \$450 to Guy Christian (formerly known as McVea J. Vigouroux), of San Jose, Calif., in full settlement of all claims of said Guy Christian against the United States for reimbursement of expenses necessarily incurred by him in evading capture by the enemy, and ultimately returning to the military control of the United States, while serving in guerrilla bands in the Philippine Islands during the Japanese occupation of such islands in World War II.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

It appears that in December 1941 Staff Sgt. McVea J. Vigouroux (now known as Guy Christian), presently residing at 138 West Reed Street, apartment 6, San Jose, Calif., was stationed at Fort McKinley, Manila, Philippine Islands. He states that on December 8, 1941, the fort was bombed by the Japanese and had to be abandoned. He further states that shortly thereafter he was sent to Mindoro Island on detached service, and that on or about May 5, 1942, that island was captured by the enemy. It appears that from that time until his return to military control on or about March 5, 1944, he succeeded in evading capture, serving in the meantime in guerrilla

bands. He states that during this period of approximately 2 years it was necessary for him to make the following expenditures:

Food.....	\$200
Transportation.....	100
Civilian clothing.....	150
Total.....	450

On April 19, 1945, Corp. Robert T. Johnston executed the following affidavit:

My name is Robert T. Johnston, corporal, Air Corps, Army serial No. 11011125. On December 8, 1941, I was stationed at Clark Field, Philippine Islands. From that time until the time I returned to military control on or about July 2, 1944, I evaded capture by the enemy. During this time I met and became personally acquainted with Staff Sgt. McVea J. Vigouroux, and was with him almost continuously for 3 years.

I know of my own personal knowledge that it was necessary and vital that money be spent by him for his sustenance, transportation, and clothing during this period of evasion.

On April 17, 1945, Sergeant Vigouroux filed a claim with the War Department (now Department of the Army) in the amount of \$450 for reimbursement of the expenses allegedly sustained by him. On October 15, 1945, this claim was necessarily disapproved for the reason that there was no statute or appropriation available to the Department under which it could be paid.

The Department of the Army in its report states:

While Mr. Christian does not appear to be able fully to substantiate his assertion that he did in fact expend the amount of \$450 for sustenance, clothing, and transportation during the period while he was evading capture by the enemy, his claim does not seem unreasonable, and is supported to some extent by the statement of Corporal Johnston hereinbefore quoted. The Department of the Army, therefore, would have no objection to the enactment of this bill.

Therefore, your committee concurs in the recommendation of the Department of the Army, and recommends favorable consideration of the bill.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,  
Washington, D. C., May 23, 1951.

Hon. EMANUEL CELLER,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,*  
*House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. CELLER: Reference is made to your letter enclosing a copy of H. R. 1961, Eighty-second Congress, a bill for the relief of Guy Christian, and requesting a report on the merits of the bill.

This bill provides as follows:

"That the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to pay, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to Guy Christian (formerly known as McVea J. Vigouroux, staff sergeant, 14026146, AC), San Jose, Calif., the sum of \$450. The payment of such sum shall be in full settlement of all claims of the said Guy Christian against the United States for reimbursement of expenses necessarily incurred by him in evading capture by the enemy, and ultimately returning to the military control of the United States, while serving in guerrilla bands in the Philippine Islands during the Japanese occupation of such islands in World War II."

In December 1941 Staff Sgt. McVea J. Vigouroux (now known as Guy Christian), presently residing at 138 West Reed Street, apartment 6, San Jose, Calif., was stationed at Fort McKinley, Manila, P. I. He states that on December 8, 1941, the fort was bombed by the Japanese and had to be abandoned. He further states that shortly thereafter he was sent to Mindoro Island on detached service, and that on or about May 5, 1942, that island was captured by the enemy. It

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While Mr. Christian does not appear to be able fully to substantiate his assertion that he did in fact expend the amount of \$450 for sustenance, clothing, and transportation during the period while he was evading capture by the enemy, his claim does not seem unreasonable, and is supported to some extent by the statement of Corporal Johnston hereinbefore quoted. The Department of the Army, therefore, would have no objection to the enactment of this bill.

The Bureau of the Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

FRANK PACE, Jr., *Secretary of the Army.*

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY  
OF LOS ANGELES

No. 517769

*In the matter of McVea Joseph Vigouroux for change of name*

DECREE CHANGING NAME

The above-entitled matter came on for hearing this day. The court having found that the provisions of section 1277 of the Code of Civil Procedure have been complied with, no opposition having been filed to the petition and evidence having been produced on behalf of petitioner in support of his application; and

It appearing to the satisfaction of the court that all the allegations of said petition are true, and that the order prayed for should be granted.

It is decreed that the name of McVea Joseph Vigouroux be and it is changed to Guy McVea Christian.

Dated September 24, 1946.

A. E. PAONESSA, *Judge.*

The document to which this certification is attached is a full, true and correct copy of the original on file and of record in my office, same having been filed September 24, 1946, and entered September 25, 1946. Judgment Book 1708, page 134.

Attest: October 30, 1950.

HAROLD J. OSTLY,  
*County Clerk and Clerk of the Superior Court of the  
State of California, in and for the County of Los Angeles.*

By RUTH L. LONGAU,  
*Deputy.*

